

What is claimed is as follows:

1. A method of displaying status information of a patient's heart rhythm comprising:
providing a cardiac rhythm management device with a plurality of
deadfront status indicator lamps on the front of a case sized to held within the patient's
hand and including a self-contained power supply within the case;
querying an implantable pulse generating device with the cardiac rhythm
management device via wireless telemetry;
receiving status information from the implantable pulse generating device
regarding the rhythm of the patient's heart;
displaying the status information visually using the status indicator lamps.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising generating an audible signal to
communicate the status information in conjunction with the visual display.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the audible signal is a voice signal.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the voice signal includes natural language
messages.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the status information indicates that the patient's
heart rhythm has been fast for more than forty-eight hours and a first deadfront status
indicator lamp signaling fast rhythm and a second deadfront status indicator lamp
signaling that the patient should contact a medical care provider are illuminated
simultaneously.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein when the first and second deadfront status
indicator lamps are illuminated to signal a persistent fast rhythm condition, no other
visual or audible signals are generated by the cardiac rhythm management device.